

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date: September 19, 2006**  
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## **WSP Commercial Vehicle Division Conducting Fuel Patrols**

The Washington State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Division is conducting emphasis patrols in District 4 today and tomorrow looking for trucks using off road or dyed diesel fuel. Seven troopers and commercial vehicle enforcement officers are patrolling area highways inspecting commercial vehicles. In conjunction with regular equipment inspections officers are checking fuel tanks for illegal fuel. So far today officers have found six vehicles with red dyed fuel.

Violators face a minimum 1,000.00 dollar penalty that is assessed by the Department of Licensing who administers Washington State's fuel tax program. If further investigation by the WSP reveals a pattern of dyed fuel use, penalties of up to 10.00 dollars a gallon of fuel used in the last five years can be assessed. Last year in Ephrata a penalty of 60,000 dollars was assessed in one case alone.

The WSP is seeing an increase in the amount of dyed fuel violations statewide. In 2005, the WSP investigated 72 cases statewide. Already in 2006, 85 cases have been filed with a total of 1.3 million dollars in fines being assessed.

The WSP is working closely with the Department of Licensing in addressing this growing problem. If anyone has information on suspected dyed fuel violations they are encouraged to call a special tip line at 1-800-497-FUEL. All calls are confidential.

**MEDIA RIDE ALONGS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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